

Message Text

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20

ACTION PM-07

INFO OCT-01 EA-11 ISO-00 NSC-10 SPC-03 SAM-01 SS-20 RSC-01

CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 DRC-01 /065 W

----- 063869

R 280725Z FEB 74

FM AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2660

INFO SAFUSI WASHDC

CSAF WASHDC

OSD/ISA WASHDC

CINCPAC HONOLULU

C O N F I D E N T I A L CANBERRA 1213

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MARR, AS, US

SUBJ: BAKER-NUNN CAMERA STATION

REF: (A) CANBERRA 05845, 26 OCT 73; (B) STATE 023713

1. DFA FIRST ASSISTANT SECRETARY FOR DEFENSE AFFAIRS (BLAKENEY) HAS INFORMED EMBASSY THAT AFTER CAREFUL REVIEW OF BAKER-NUNN PROPOSAL HE HAS ESTABLISHED THAT NO RRPT NO AUSTRALIAN GOVERNMENT AGENCY IS INTERESTED IN PRODUCT OF STATION. THUS, ADOD, ASIDE FROM FACT THAT PERSONNEL OF PROPER TECHNICAL BACKGROUND ARE NOT AVAILABLE, DOES NOT DESIRE JOINT MANNING.

2. BLAKENEY (WHO IS AMONG MOST POSITIVE SENIOR AUSTRALIANS IN REGARD TO JOINT DEFENSE ACTIVITIES WITH USG) IS RELUCTANT TO RAISE WITH GOA MINISTERS PROPOSAL FOR NEW FACILITY MANNED BY 26-MAN USAF MILITARY CONTINGENT. HE FEARS NEGATIVE REACTION ON PART OF CABINET, AND HAS INQUIRED WHETHER BAKER-NUNN STATION COULD BE MANNED BY

A. US CIVILIANS; OR

B. AUSTRALIAN CIVILIANS UNDER CONTRACT; OR

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C. SOME COMBINATION OF ABOVE.

ALTHOUGH HE DID NOT REFER TO IT DIRECTLY, BELIEVE ANOTHER ALTERNATIVE MIGHT BE SMALL NUMBER (PERHAPS LESS THAN FIVE) USAF PERSONNEL DIRECTING CIVILIAN CONTRACT EMPLOYEES.

3. BLAKENEY DID NOT RAISE QUESTION OF SECURE CRYPTO ROOM ALTHOUGH HIS PREFERENCE FOR ALL-CIVILIAN MANAGEMENT OF STATION MAY BE PARTLY MOTIVATED BY ASSUMPTION THERE WOULD THEN BE NO NEED FOR CRYPTO ROOM.

4. BLAKENEY WOULD LIKE TO PRESS AHEAD TOWARD A SOLUTION OF THIS LONG NEGOTIATION BUT WISHES TO PRESENT PROPOSAL TO MINISTERS IN FORM MOST LIKELY TO GAIN ACCEPTANCE.

5. WOULD APPRECIATE EARLIEST POSSIBLE WASHINGTON REACTION TO THESE PROPOSALS IN REGARD TO STAFFING. EMBASSY ALSO REQUIRES FURTHER GUIDANCE AS TO RELATIVE PRIORITY OF THIS FACILITY TO PERMIT JUDGMENT AS TO HOW HARD WE WOULD WISH TO PUSH IF NEGATIVE POLITICAL REACTION ENCOUNTERED.
HARROP

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Message Attributes

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